



National Transportation Safety Board

The Chairman's Corner

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Friday, October 7, 2005

Lake George Tour Boat Capsizing Investigation



The Ethan Allen tour boat is raised from bottom of Lake George New York where it rested on the bottom in 70 feet of water. The day before it had capsized, killing 20 persons.

The National Transportation Safety Board sent a team of investigators to the scene of the tour boat capsizing in Lake George, New York. The tour boat *Ethan Allen* capsized about 3 p.m., EDT, on Sunday, October 2. There were 47 persons on board; 20 were fatally injured.

Leading the team of 12 was Robert Ford, who was the Investigator-in-Charge. Acting Chairman Mark Rosenker accompanied the team and served as principal spokesperson. Terry Williams was the public affairs officer with the team.

The team conducted daily press briefings updating the media on the status of the investigation. Rosenker has appeared on numerous news programs such as CNN's Paula Zahn, Fox News, ABC's Good Morning America, NBC's The Today Show, and the Early Show on CBS.

The team conducted several tests to see how the boat would have handled while carrying the maximum load of 50 people of 140lbs to simulate each person. The team is expected to remain on scene for a few more days before returning to headquarters.



Brian Curtis, NTSB marine accident investigator and Acting Chairman Rosenker on board the Ethan Allen after it was towed to a secure facility.



NTSB investigators survey the bus wreckage.

Texas Bus Accident Investigation

The National Transportation Safety Board sent a team of investigators to the scene of a fire aboard a bus carrying evacuees away from the predicted path of hurricane Rita. About 6:35 a.m., CDT, on September 23, a bus was traveling on Interstate 45 near Wilmer, Texas, when it became engulfed in flames. Of the 45 persons on board 23 were fatally injured.

Gary Van Etten from the Board's regional office in Arlington, Texas, is the Investigator-in-Charge. He was joined by specialists from the Arlington office as well as NTSB headquarters to investigate the accident. NTSB Chairman-Designate Ellen Engleman Conners accompanied the team and served as principal spokesperson for the on-scene investigation. Keith Holloway was the NTSB public affairs officer with the team.

The team is continuing to investigate several issues including mechanical, human performance, and vehicle performance.

Dan Campbell Retires



Dan Campbell, a charter member of the Senior Executive Service, and a model executive who has been an influential advisor in a number of key positions in various agencies, retired last Friday. He is a respected leader with a record of sustained, extraordinary accomplishments as a senior executive for more than 25 years, was the recipient of the Presidential Meritorious Executive Rank Award in 1995, and is one of only three executives in the entire government certified under the rigorous criteria for critical pay. Mr. Campbell has earned and deserves to be recognized as the distinguished executive that he is. Mr. Campbell has been indispensable to all nine of the NTSB Chairmen and Acting Chairmen he has served and has always been rated outstanding. He has received numerous awards attesting to his exceptional achievements and is consistently the agency's top performer, in an agency that enjoys a reputation for exceptional competence and excellence. Mr. Campbell joined the NTSB as General Counsel in 1990 after 20 years with the Civil Aeronautics Board and the Interstate Commerce Commission. He subsequently served 5 years as NTSB's Managing Director, and most recently as the Executive Director, focusing on planning, policy, and transition issues. The NTSB's stature in the transportation community is dependent on career executives of Mr. Campbell's dedication and industry.



Carolyn Dargan Retires After 30+ Years

The NTSB would like to thank Carolyn Dargan for her 30+ years of outstanding service. Her dedication and support to the agency's mission has been demonstrated on numerous occasions. Mrs. Dargan performed outstanding work in coordinating many Board meetings, public hearings, and other functions, and has always maintained the highest level of professionalism. Mrs. Dargan retired on October 1.

George Petterson, Regional Air Safety Investigator, Retires



After 15 years of dedicated service and hard work as a Regional Air Safety Investigator, George Petterson retired from the NTSB's Los Angeles Regional Office.

While employed by the Safety Board, George served as the Investigator-in-Charge of over 500 accidents, including 157 field accidents. He led the investigation of the in-flight breakup of the C-130 fire tanker in Walker, California, and the John Denver crash in Monterey, California. He was the Structures Group Chairman during the Southwest Airlines 737 overrun accident in Burbank.

Last year, George was awarded the FAA's highest honor for aircraft maintenance, the Charles Taylor Award, for over 50 years of aircraft maintenance excellence and safety. He was also awarded an *Aviation Week and Space Technology* magazine "Laurel Award" for his work in addressing the issue of aging aircraft.



NTSB Welcomes New Employee

Mrs. Kathryn (Katie) P. Inman, Attorney-Advisor, began her employment in the Office of General Counsel on October 3, 2005. Mrs. Inman received her Juris Doctor Degree from The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law, and has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science and English from James Madison University.

Steve Demko Supports Katrina Relief Efforts

On Thursday, September 22, 2005, Steven Demko (AS-NERA) and another pilot flew a Piper Cheyenne 400LS from Groton, Connecticut, to State College, Pennsylvania, where they boarded 4 American Red Cross volunteers destined for Pensacola, Florida, to provide relief efforts due to hurricane Katrina. En-route to Florida, they stopped in Nashville, Tennessee, where they boarded 2 young boys who had been separated from their family for 5 weeks as the result of the hurricane. The boys were flown to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where they were reunited with their mother and young sister. The pilots then dropped off the 4 volunteers in Pensacola, where they also boarded 5 returning volunteers bound for Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. After dropping the 5 volunteers off in Harrisburg, they repositioned back to Groton, and completed the trip that totaled over 9 flight hours and a 13-hour duty day.

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month

Fifteen years ago, President George H. W. Bush signed into law the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), reducing barriers for millions of Americans with disabilities and providing a mandate for the elimination of discrimination in the workplace and in the community. Since the ADA was enacted, people with disabilities have been able to participate more fully in the workforce, and our nation has become stronger and more just. Yet more work remains, and we continue our efforts to enable Americans with disabilities to live and work with greater freedom.

To recognize the contributions of Americans with disabilities and to encourage all citizens to ensure equal opportunity in the workforce, the Congress, by joint resolution approved as amended (36 U.S.C. 121), has designated October of each year as "National Disability Employment Awareness Month."

Update on Most Wanted Safety Recommendations

Steve Blackistone testified in Arkansas on railroad grade crossing issues (H-01-38). While in Arkansas, Mr. Blackistone spoke with several legislators, legislative staff, and Executive Branch officials regarding the Board's recommendations on graduated driver licensing and primary enforcement.

Staff has been working with The Century Council and AAA to continue the support for improved, comprehensive impaired driving legislation in Massachusetts.